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Sen. Laura Toy's accomplishments in 2006 include protecting children, soldiers' families, preserving local jobs

LANSING – Protecting children, shielding the families of fallen soldiers from funeral protestors, and helping an important local job provider were among the highlights of Sen. Laura M. Toy's work in the Senate during 2006.

"We accomplished a great deal in the past year," said Sen. Toy, 6th Senate District.

To safeguard Michigan's children, Sen. Toy sponsored a law to help create a Michigan version of Jessica's Law that will lock-up repeat child sexual predators for life in prison without the possibility of parole.

As part of a reform package, Sen. Toy introduced legislation requiring funeral protestors to stay at least 500 feet away from a funeral service or risk prosecution for disorderly conduct. This legislation was in response to a national wave of vile protests at the funerals of fallen soldiers.

"The Senior Citizens and Veterans Affairs Committee that I chair in the Senate heard disturbing testimony from parents who had just lost a child who was a member of our nation's armed forces," Sen. Toy said. "Some of these parents even received threatening phone calls and e-mails."

Sen. Toy also sponsored legislation helping a local company, Majeske Machining of Livonia, to expand by allowing it to take advantage of an industrial tax credit program.

In the past four years Sen. Toy has had 24 bills approved by the Legislature and sent to the governor, 21 of which have been signed into law. Eight of her bills have been signed so far in 2006.

"It has been an honor and a privilege to serve in the Michigan Senate," Sen. Toy said. "I am proud of what I was able to do to help make life better for residents of the 6th Senate District and our great state."

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